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FORM NO. 237  
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Replaces Form 30-4  
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27 October 1958

Acting Chief, Economic Research  
THRU : Chief, Analysis Division  
Chief, USSR Branch

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25X1X6 Informal Review of Russian Statistical Volumes Presented to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 25X1X6

25X1A9a 1. Three of the four volumes given to us for review concerned information more relevant to the interest of Trade and Finance Branch than to ourselves. Therefore Foreign Trade of the USSR with Socialist Countries; Foreign Trade of the USSR with the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; and Foreign Trade of the USSR with Capitalist Countries were reviewed by S/TF while we reviewed Economic Position of the Capitalist Countries in 1956. [REDACTED] of S/TF indicated that they have previously reviewed the first and third of the above volumes for Herbert Block of the State Department for subsequent transmittal to [REDACTED]. The comments prepared by S/TF are contained in the attachment to this memorandum. 25X1X6

a, 2. ~~The volume Economic Position of the Capitalist Countries in 1956~~ was also published by the ~~Scientific-Technical Marketing Institute of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade~~. Structurally the book is divided into chapters dealing with economic sectors with emphasis on industrial production, agriculture, and foreign trade. Each chapter is subdivided into discussions by country, focused on the US, Western Europe, Canada, and Japan. Most of the volume is a reasonably objective presentation of facts gleaned from UN publications and official national periodicals. The summary and introductory sections are propagandistic in aim and present the usual dogma concerning the malfunctioning of capitalist economic systems. The principal propaganda themes are inflation, disproportions in capitalist economies, internal and external competition for markets, and interpretation of capital investment as an effort to decrease costs and increase profits. No attempt is made to draw East-West comparisons.

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[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT

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Comments on Three Soviet Trade Publications:

Foreign Trade of the USSR with Socialist Countries (1957)

Foreign Trade of the USSR with the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (1958)

Foreign Trade of the USSR with Capitalist Countries (1957)

1. We have briefly reviewed the above books, all of which were published by the Scientific-Technical Marketing Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, USSR. Only the first two, regarding Soviet trade with Free World underdeveloped countries and with the Bloc, respectively, are of any intelligence interest. All three books follow the same format: a preface, describing Soviet trade with the particular area as a whole, is followed by individual "country" chapters, in which the history of Soviet trade with each important country in the area is dealt with in detail.

2. Soviet Foreign Trade with Socialist Countries Contains some hitherto unpublished Soviet data on its trade with Bloc countries in 1950, including trade balances. In addition, the latest available Soviet valuation of its credits to the Bloc -- (28 billion rubles) -- appears on p. 17. Both the preface and the country chapters, while offering no new clues to Soviet economic policy in the Bloc, contain detailed information on Soviet commodity trade.

3. Soviet Foreign Trade with the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (1958) yields no new information regarding Soviet policies or motivations in the underdeveloped countries, although in the preface a brief summary of Soviet economic relations with these areas places the

current trade offensive in historical perspective. The country chapters for such areas as Afghanistan, which does not regularly publish its trade statistics, provide interesting details on Soviet trade balances and on the commodity composition of Soviet trade with these areas.

d. Soviet Foreign Trade with Capitalist Countries (1957), ~~Appears~~ to be of little or no intelligence value. In the 14-page preface, Soviet trade with these countries is discussed in the usual Soviet terms, and the country chapters disclose no significant trade data which are not already known from other sources.